

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Security Research Staff

DATE: 16 November 1953

FROM : Chief, Technical Branch

SUBJECT: ARTICHOKE Conference, 22 October 1953.

A/B, III, 1, 4

1. On Thursday, 22 October 1953, between 2:00 PM and 3:25 PM, an ARTICHOKE Conference was held in the SO Conference Room, 2065 I Building. Present at this Conference were [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] opened the Conference by introducing [REDACTED] who is to represent [REDACTED] in the future, replacing [REDACTED] who is leaving the United States. A  
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3. [REDACTED] then pointed out the known facts in the alleged offer of the [REDACTED] to sell ten (10) kilos of LSD. A general discussion followed which resulted in an agreement of all hands that:

- 1) The Agency should purchase the LSD if possible and as soon as possible.
- 2) Purchase price estimated to be \$240,000 or less.
- G, A 3) [REDACTED] to handle methods and details of purchase, cover, etc. for the purchase operation and to conduct same.
- S, A 4) [REDACTED] to present the purchase plans to the proper Agency officials and obtain necessary support (fiscal or otherwise) and authorization for the operation.
- A  
A, A 5) [REDACTED] offer to assist in any way possible in connection with 4) above was accepted and [REDACTED] agreed to work out details in the immediate future.

For matter of record, it should be noted that it was agreed by all hands that the purchase of this material was a risky operation but since the dangerous potentials of the chemical were known and the

[REDACTED]

amount offered of such size the purchase was regarded as sound if for no other reason than a preclusive situation.

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4. [REDACTED] then pointed out that [REDACTED] was leaving for [REDACTED] the following week on personal business and had volunteered to visit some manufacturing firms and noted [REDACTED] specialists in connection with ARTICHOKE. [REDACTED] had offered to make these visits on his own time and if necessary at his own expense, provided he had prior approval from Security and the ARTICHOKE Conference. [REDACTED] read a list of the firms and individuals that [REDACTED] had proposed to visit. After some discussion, it was decided in view of the pending LSD transaction in [REDACTED] that it would be unwise to permit [REDACTED] to conduct any business along ARTICHOKE lines in [REDACTED] or elsewhere in [REDACTED] at the present time although his generous offer was greatly appreciated. [REDACTED] stated that if it was later decided that the contact of these firms and individuals appeared essential to the ARTICHOKE problem, [REDACTED] could be sent officially on this business from Headquarters, Washington.

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Note: [REDACTED] was informed of the ARTICHOKE Conference decision in this matter on Friday, 23 October 1953 by [REDACTED]

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5. [REDACTED] then briefly re-introduced the subject of the aims and the functions of the ARTICHOKE program and announced that drafts of a paper in this connection would be given to all ARTICHOKE Conference members for their study prior to the next ARTICHOKE meeting. In addition, [REDACTED] stated a draft of the proposal for an experimental project using specially screened trainee volunteers would also be given to the ARTICHOKE Conference members at the same time. [REDACTED] requested all members to examine the drafts, make any notes, corrections, additions, etc. and be prepared to discuss the proposals at the following ARTICHOKE Conference.

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6. [REDACTED] explained in greater detail the proposal for the use of trainee volunteers. [REDACTED] pointed out that such research would be of benefit in two main areas:

- A. It would very clearly demonstrate to certain select Agency personnel the effects of chemicals, hypnosis and possibly other elements, etc. upon themselves and their associates.
- B. It would give the ARTICHOKE members an opportunity to study the reactions of good subjects under more or less ideal and very

safe conditions and, in addition, would afford an opportunity for testing new methods and techniques.

A [REDACTED] also discussed the urgency of discovery of techniques and methods that would permit our personnel, in the event of their capture by the enemy, to resist or defeat enemy interrogation. [REDACTED]  
A [REDACTED] stated this was a true ARTICHOKE problem and any technique or method that could further this should be explored. [REDACTED]  
A [REDACTED] added that any method of "buying time" was essential in an evacuation and withdrawal problem.

7. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM with the agreement that the next meeting would take place at 2:00 PM on 19 November 1953 at the same place.

A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]